GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2005
ANSWERED ON:09.03.2016
Territorial Claims
Kesineni Shri Srinivas

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the details of India's current stand on the territorial claims of various countries on the polar regions of the Earth;

(b) whether India has made any claim over any territory in the Arctic and Antarctic;

(c) if so, the details in this regard;

(d) whether any deliberations have been held among various countries in this regard; and

(e) if so, the details and outcome thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
[GEN. (DR) V. K. SINGH (RETD)]

(a) India is a party to the Antarctic Treaty of 1959 and abides by the provisions of the Treaty, under which all territorial claims stand frozen. India enjoys an Observer status in the Arctic Council, which was formally established by the Ottawa Declaration of 1996. The Arctic Ocean does not belong to any country and is governed by the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, to which India is a party.

(b) No. India has not made any claim over any territory in the Arctic or the Antarctic.

(c) Not applicable.

(d) India has not held any deliberations with any country with regard to any territorial claims on the polar regions.

(e) Not applicable.